



BUTTE COUNTY PROFILE

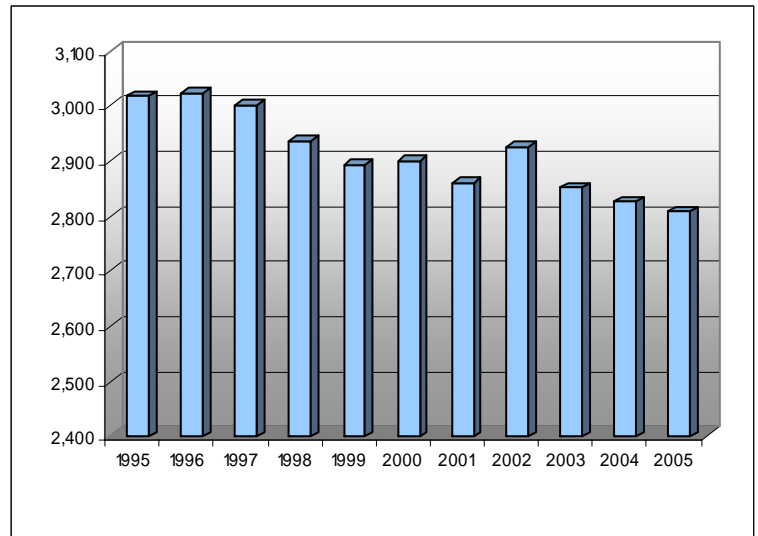
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June 2006

Population

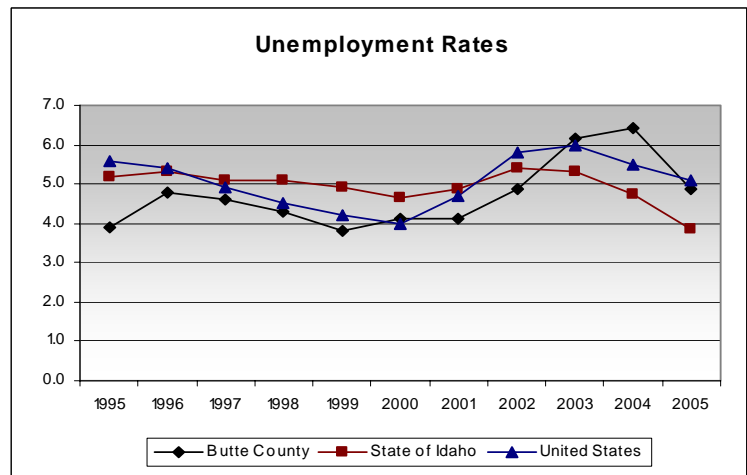
Butte County, one of the smallest counties in the state, showed a decrease of 200 people from 1995 to 2005. Currently at a population of 2,808, the county has basically been declining since its peak in 1996, just after a set of large layoffs at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) took place followed by closures of mines in neighboring Lemhi and Custer counties. While the population has gone back and forth in growth and decline over the decade, the county is committed to economic development and working on long-range plans for stability and serving tourists that travel through to such places as the Craters of the Moon and Sun Valley. The INL is located about 12 miles from Arco, and although the majority of the roughly 7,000 INL employees work at buildings located in the county, only a small percentage of the workers actually reside in the county. The layout of the commuting area is a little unique, making it a challenge to see much economic gain from the INL employees, but plans for a museum and other attractions are in the works. Arco, the largest city, shows a 2004 population of 1,001.



Labor Force & Employment

Because of population trends and changes in the INL budget and mine closures over the decade, the unemployment rate in Butte County has also bounced around somewhat following the same pattern as the nation and the state. The current rate is 1.0 percentage point higher than it was in 1995. Although it is higher than the state rate, it is not considered high compared to many other Idaho counties. Over the decade, the county has only been higher than the state for the past three years.

As seen on the pie graph on page two, the number of jobs in *Professional & Business Services* (82.1%) far exceeds the number in any other industry in the county, as most are provided by the INL facilities. *Government* is a stable industry, including small offices of several federal agencies along with county and school workers. *Education & Health* along with

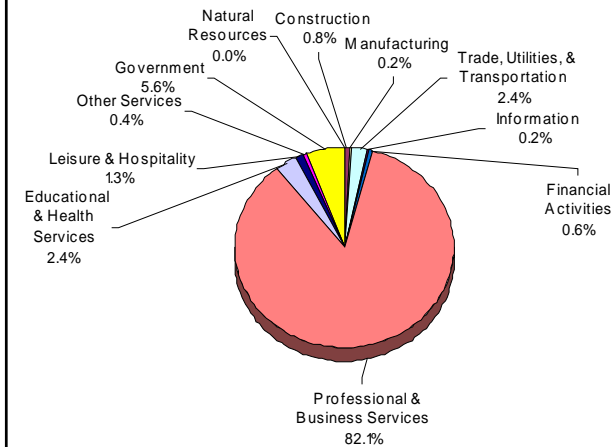


Trade are also stable industries. *Construction* can fluctuate with large building projects at the INL. The county is working on business start-ups with an incubation center in Arco and an economic development group working in Mackay. Tourism is an economic factor in the county with the influx of visitors to Craters of the Moon National Monument. A museum showcasing the history of the INL and the nuclear industry is still in the works.

Labor Force	May 2005	May 2006
Civilian Labor Force	1,278	1,229
Total Employment	1,209	1,168
Unemployed	69	61
Butte County % Unemployed	5.4	5.0
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.9	3.4
U.S. % Unemployed	5.1	4.7

Labor Force	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Civilian Labor Force	1,560	1,617	1,636	1,613	1,597	1,458	1,465	1,267	1,293	1,280	1,245
Unemployment	61	78	75	69	60	60	61	62	80	82	61
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	4.8	4.6	4.3	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.9	6.1	6.4	4.9
Employment	1,499	1,539	1,561	1,544	1,537	1,398	1,404	1,206	1,214	1,197	1,184

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2004



Covered Employers

Butte County is unique because one of the state's largest employers (INL) is primarily located in the county, yet most of the workers reside in neighboring counties. Covered employment is a count of workers and their wages where the physical location of the facility is, not where the workers live. As a result, the county statistics are somewhat misrepresented. While *Professional & Business Services* (INL's industrial classification) and *Construction* show very high wages in comparison to the other industries, the data reflects the wages paid to the workers, most of whom are not residents of the county. Only about 20 percent of Butte County's residents work at the INL.

Major Employers

Battelle Energy Alliance
Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC
Bechtel Bettis, Inc.
Butte County School District # 111
CWI
Lost River Hospital

Eastern ID Occupational Wages*	Average Wage
Agricultural Workers	\$8.47
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	\$11.30
Cashiers	\$7.79
Construction Trades Workers	\$16.84
Cooks & Food Preparation Workers	\$8.07
Customer Service Reps	\$9.86
Engineers (All)	\$35.42
Food & Beverage Serving Workers	\$6.59
General Office Clerks	\$10.69
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$14.06
Health Technologists & Technicians	\$15.77
Secretaries & Administrations Asst	\$15.13
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$13.38
Waiters/Waitresses	\$6.06

* This wage data represents Eastern Idaho (15 counties). Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Commerce & Labor website at cl.idaho.gov/lmi.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1994, 2003, & 2004	1994		2003		2004	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	5,827	\$41,351	4,558	\$60,996	4,451	\$64,431
Agriculture	43	\$14,278	29	\$15,367	28	\$15,147
Mining	*	*	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	30	\$23,668	195	\$54,942	37	\$42,893
Manufacturing	1,424	\$48,757	7	\$24,802	10	\$27,290
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	135	\$11,325	118	\$14,502	106	\$14,154
Information	*	*	*	*	*	*
Financial Activities	23	\$14,217	30	\$14,650	29	\$15,344
Professional and Business Services	3,722	\$43,398	3,744	\$68,182	3,799	\$71,870
Educational and Health Services	135	\$14,564	123	\$24,020	141	\$21,768
Leisure and Hospitality	69	\$8,245	60	\$7,828	56	\$9,467
Other Services	11	\$16,719	18	\$26,885	15	\$25,089
Government	228	\$17,272	226	\$22,996	224	\$24,345

Per Capita Income	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Butte County	\$16,539	\$16,402	\$17,313	\$18,811	\$19,315	\$20,611	\$22,559	\$20,957	\$20,620	\$23,035
State of Idaho	\$18,707	\$19,426	\$20,248	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,075	\$25,185	\$25,330	\$26,877
United States	\$22,172	\$23,076	\$24,175	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,845	\$30,575	\$30,804	\$31,472

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau

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COMMERCE & LABOR

This county is served by the office listed below:
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